

## NORTHSIDE

# Locals honored for 'making a difference'

■ **Team Metro honored three people who have distinguished themselves for community service and inspired others.**

Miami Herald Staff Report

Immediately following Hurricane Katrina last fall, hairstylist and salon owner Dania Galarce organized a Hair Cut-A-Thon to raise money and supplies for the Red Cross and hurricane victims.

Also in 2005, Galarce organized a group of hairstylists to provide free hair styles and hair treatments for domestic violence victims. Her idea has now grown into the New

Beginnings Program, in which women's and children's lives are transformed by a physical makeover, as well as résumé preparation, interview tips, job referrals, day care placement, clothing vouchers and budgeting and credit sessions.

The program has now served more than 200 people.

Galarce's community service has not gone unnoticed. She was among three area community leaders picked by



**MELROSE WINNER:** Dania Galarce, left, was honored with a Making a Difference award from Team Metro for her community service and hurricane relief efforts.

Team Metro for Making A Difference awards when the county outreach service agency celebrated Neighborhood P.R.I.D.E. Week.

Joining the Melrose resident for the award were Claudia Jeffers of the Northwest area and Fredricke Alan Morley of Northside.

The awards were started by Team Metro employees in 2002 to recognize those who act as catalysts for citizen participation in their communities. Recipients have demonstrated significant civic participation in their unincor-

porated neighborhoods, and their examples have inspired others to make a difference as well.

One award per Team Metro regional office is presented during Neighborhood P.R.I.D.E. Week annually, observed countywide April 1-8.

The honorees were recognized at the 2006 P.R.I.D.E. Week kick-off at Flagami Elementary School, 920 SW 76th Ave., April 1, and at the Team Metro Unity Festival on Saturday at the Martin Luther King Center, 2525 NW 62nd St.

Galarce, a native of Cuba who immigrated in 1989, is also a volunteer at the Children's Home Society. She herself has three children: Brian, 25, and twins Adriana and Alejandro, 16.

She worked four years with the Census Bureau before opening her salon in 1989.

"Ms. Galarce is a fine example of an individual who is making a difference in our community. Through her caring nature and compassion, she has inspired many to get involved and improve the quality of life for so many in our community," the statement said.

Past recipients of the Making A Difference Award from the Melrose community include Ester Gonzalez (2002), Ernesto Perez (2003), Mario Delgado (2004) and Roger Lorenzo (2005).

Jeffers has organized a Crime Watch group in her community; she also helps elderly residents who live alone with grocery shopping and personal needs and keeps in contact with them to make sure they are alright.

Jeffers is also active in the Country Club East Townhomes Homeowners Association and is participating in the Team Metro Citizens' Academy. As a community advocate, she has been a part of

several efforts to crack down on code violations and implement beautification projects.

"Ms. Jeffers is a fine example of what the Making A Difference Award represents," the statement said.

Past recipients of the award from the Northwest community include Morgan Levy (2002), Ana O'Dell (2003) and Elaine Abuhoff (2005).

Morley is former chairman and current vice chairman of the North Central Community Council 8. He is also director of Inner City Development Inc., a group that assists youth with counseling, tutoring, and job preparation skills.

"Mr. Morley is always looking for ways to better his community's quality of life, by searching for innovative ways to provide residents with easy access to valuable information," the Team Metro statement said.

Past award recipients from the Northside area include Timothy Everett (2002), Philip Days (2003), the Rev. Calvin Scott (2004) and Mary Slater (2005).

"Team Metro is very appreciative to the Making A Difference Award recipients and all individuals that are involved in their communities," said Suzanne Salichs, Team Metro's regional coordinator.